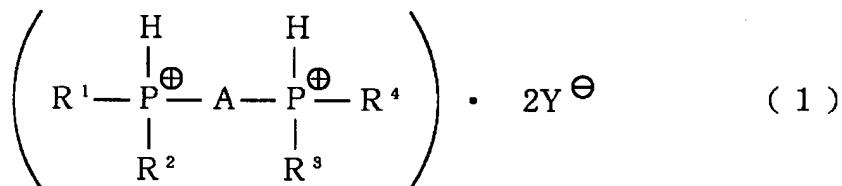


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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following claims for the pending claims with the same numbers respectively:

Claim 1 (Original): A bis-phosphonium salt represented by the following formula (1):



wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, and R<sup>4</sup> each represent a linear or branched alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, an aryl group, or an aralkyl group; A represents an alkylene group; Y represents an anion; R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> may form a ring; R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> may form a ring; and R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, and R<sup>4</sup> may be the same or different.

Claim 2 (Currently amended): The bis-phosphonium salt according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are the same, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are the same, R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are different from each other, and R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are different from each other.

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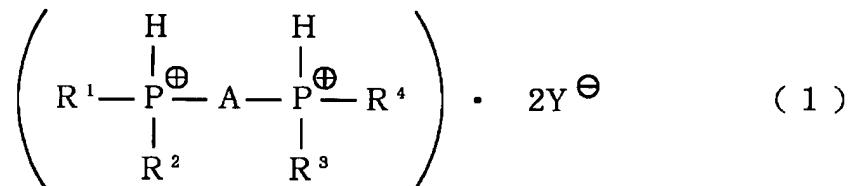
Claim 3 (Currently amended): The bis-phosphonium salt according to ~~claims~~ claim 1 or 2, wherein the anion is a halide ion or a sulfonate ion represented by the following formula (2):



where  $\text{R}^5$  represents a monovalent organic group.

Claim 4 (Currently amended): The bis-phosphonium salt according to ~~Claim~~ claim 3, wherein the anion is a bromide ion.

Claim 5 (Original): A process for producing a bis-phosphonium salt represented by the following formula (1):



the process comprising:

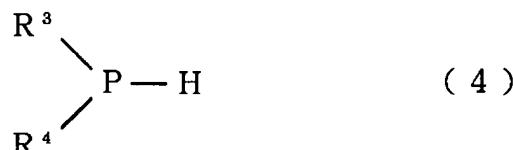
a step of allowing a first secondary phosphine and second secondary phosphine to react with a compound in an alcohol solvent selected from a secondary alcohol and tertiary alcohol,

wherein the first secondary phosphine is represented by the following formula (3):

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the second secondary phosphine is represented by the following formula (4) :



and the compound is represented by the following formula (5) :



where R1, R2, R3, and R4 each represent a linear or branched alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, an aryl group, or an aralkyl group; A represents an alkylene group; Y represents an anion; R1 and R2 may form a ring; R3 and R4 may form a ring; and R1, R2, R3, and R4 may be the same or different.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): The bis-phosphonium salt according to Claim 5, wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are the same, R<sup>2</sup> and

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$R^3$  are the same,  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are different from each other, and  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  are different from each other.

Claim 7 (Currently amended): The process according to ~~Claim~~  
claim 5 or 6, wherein the anion is a halide ion or a sulfonate ion  
represented by the following formula (2):



where  $R^5$  represents a monovalent organic group.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): The process according to ~~Claim~~  
claim 7, wherein the anion is a bromide ion.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): The process according to ~~any~~  
~~one of Claim~~ claim 5 to 8, wherein the alcohol solvent is tert-  
butanol.

Claim 10 (Currently amended): The process according to ~~any~~  
~~one of Claim~~ claim 5 to 9, wherein the first and second secondary  
phosphines are the same.

Claim 11 (New): The bis-phosphonium salt according to claim  
2, wherein the anion is a halide ion or a sulfonate ion  
represented by the following formula (2):

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where  $\text{R}^5$  represents a monovalent organic group.

Claim 12 (New) : The bis-phosphonium salt according to claim 11, wherein the anion is a bromide ion.

Claim 13 (New) : The process according to claim 6, wherein the anion is a halide ion or a sulfonate ion represented by the following formula (2) :



where  $\text{R}^5$  represents a monovalent organic group.

Claim 14 (New) : The process according to claim 13, wherein the anion is a bromide ion.

Claim 15 (New) : The process according to claim 6, wherein the alcohol solvent is tert-butanol.

Claim 16 (New) : The process according to claim 7, wherein the alcohol solvent is tert-butanol.

Claim 17 (New) : The process according to claim 8, wherein the alcohol solvent is tert-butanol.

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Claim 18 (New) : The process according to claim 6, wherein  
the first and second secondary phosphines are the same.

Claim 19 (New) : The process according to claim 7, wherein  
the first and second secondary phosphines are the same.

Claim 20 (New) : The process according to claim 8, wherein  
the first and second secondary phosphines are the same.

Claim 21 (New) : The process according to claim 9, wherein  
the first and second secondary phosphines are the same.